



Legislative Council Staff
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Final Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 21-0529	Date:	September 22, 2021
Prime Sponsors:	Rep. Holtorf; Ortiz Sen. Liston	Bill Status:	Signed into Law
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Bill Topic: PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT FREE STATE PARK ACCESS

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill grants free state park access to Purple Heart recipients. It decreases state revenue and increases state expenditures on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 21-1116

		Budget Year FY 2021-22	Out Year FY 2022-23
Revenue	Cash Funds	(up to \$31,940)	(up to \$38,328)
Expenditures		-	-
Transfers		-	-
TABOR Refund		-	-

Summary of Legislation

The bill grants free access to state parks and recreation areas to Colorado residents who are Purple Heart recipients. A resident displaying a Purple Heart special license plate may enter any state park or recreation area free of charge. A resident who is a Purple Heart recipient can obtain a free transferable state park pass from a Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) division or central office, even if they have not obtained the special license plate.

Background

Colorado's 42 state parks have about 15 million visitors each year. Daily park passes range from \$9-\$11 per vehicle, and annual passes range from \$70 to \$120. There are currently an estimated 8,089 Purple Heart recipients that would be eligible for free admission under the bill. Current law allows a disabled veteran to access state parks and recreation areas free of charge by displaying a disabled veterans license plate or by obtaining a free transferable annual state park pass from CPW.

State Revenue

The bill is estimated to decrease revenue to the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Cash Fund in the Department of Natural Resources by up to \$31,940 in FY 2021-22, and up to \$38,328 in FY 2022-23 and future years. The revenue impact is estimated by assuming a decrease of approximately 0.17 percent (the ratio of Purple Heart recipients to the adult population in Colorado) to park pass revenue, which totaled approximately \$22.2 million FY 2019-20. The impact is prorated to reflect 10 months of effect in FY 2021-22. The foregone revenue may be less than this total as some Purple Heart recipients may already qualify for free access as disabled veterans, however this population is not estimated.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is designated as an enterprise under TABOR; revenue to the agency does not apply toward the TABOR revenue limit.

State Expenditures

This bill will increase costs and workload in CPW to produce and distribute annual passes, update materials and websites, and conduct rulemaking. These costs are expected to be minimal, and can be accomplished within existing appropriations. In addition, increased visitation induced by free entry will incrementally increase costs related to usage; these costs are not estimated.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 28, 2021, and it took effect on September 7, 2021.

State and Local Government Contacts

Military Affairs

Natural Resources

Revenue